Wardak Province

OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Wardak from January 2002 - June 2011: \$112.8 million

Estimated Population: 531,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of

Afghanistan 2008-2009) Capital: Maydan Shahr Note: Turkish-led PRT



The central province of Wardak has mainly Pashtun and Hazara residents. During the war, much of Wardak's population emigrated from the province to Iran and Pakistan. Now, many residents have returned since the fall of the Taliban, putting a strain on the already damaged infrastructure. This newly re-established community has shifted its agricultural priorities from cereal crops to more lucrative vegetables and orchards, and the apples of Wardak province are famous throughout the country.

AGRICULTURE

Goal: Increase agricultural sector jobs and income through a) increased agricultural productivity by increasing farmer access to inputs and effective extension services; b) invigorated agribusiness by increasing linkages between farmers, markets, credit, and trade corridors; and c) rehabilitated watersheds and improved irrigation infrastructure. Also, increase Afghans' confidence in their government by increased Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's (MAIL) capacity to deliver services and promote the private sector and farmer associations through direct budget and technical assistance.

Summary: The USAID-funded agriculture project that ended in 2006 focused on preparing farmers to participate in a modern agricultural economy through improved irrigation, road rehabilitation and training. The objective of the current program is to provide income generating opportunities to community farmers without depleting natural resources.

Current Activities:

- Establish a farm service center
- Provide technical assistance and technical training to MAIL extension staff and the area farmers
- Provide technical assistance to farmers to enhance their capacity for orchard management
- Train farmers on an improved apricot sulfur drying program and assist merchants on fresh apricot trail shipments to Dubai, Karachi, and Indian markets with an improved cold chain system
- Establish apple cool rooms in different areas of the province
- Apply the apple and apricot value chains approach to improve the product quality, grading, packing, packaging, pre-cooling, transporting and marketing of apricots and apples into the new international markets
- Train Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods and conflict resolution
- Expand marketing in export channels that have been recently developed

Accomplishments:



Wardak Province

- Reconstructed a 24-meter bridge near Aga Khil
- Established 13 private, full-service AgDepot farm stores that provide agriculture supplies and services to support key legal crops and promote improved animal health
- Rehabilitated 42 km of road to provide better farm-to-market transportation
- Planted 495,000 trees and cuttings
- Established 37 woodlots
- Trained 1,107 individuals on orchard, fruit nursery, and forestry management
- Increased sales of legal farm and non-farm products by \$40,000
- Created 46 full-time equivalent jobs
- Trained 250 farmers, and as a result, their 20,000 kg of apricots sold for more than twice the price of locally produced dried apricots
- Established an AgNet Internet communications system and weather station in the provincial MAIL office, providing access to the National Agriculture Information System database
- Trained the AgNet officer, who now collects and transmits local weather, market price, and agricultural production information to ministry headquarters and local farmers
- Contributed to the development of a rangeland law
- Supported the provincial Kuchi shura
- Established 252 hectares of new orchards and provided training on land preparation, layout, and planting techniques for 1,060 farmers

DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

Goal: Build the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality and quantity of public services to Afghan citizens.

Summary: USAID supports democracy and governance in Wardak Province through activities including legislative strengthening, electoral support, justice sector reform, media, and civil-society development.

Current Activities:

- Provide capacity building training to civil-society organizations
- Support a radio station
- Administer small grants to community organizations to promote women's rights, human rights, and community mediation and conflict analysis
- Provide training to the provincial council, which improves professionalism, knowledge, and skills, resulting
 in more effective and transparent leadership
- Train provincial- and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy
- Provide institutional capacity development and advocacy support to women-focused Afghan civil-society organizations
- Create district-level governance councils under the auspices of the Independent Directorate for Local Government
- Support accountable municipal governance, improved municipal delivery of public services, and improved generation and management of municipal revenue in provincial capitals
- Provide the provincial governor with operational resources and money for community outreach and micro projects to support his needs and serve as incentive to develop



Wardak Province

Accomplishments:

- Supported justice sector development through the publication and distribution of Judicial Reference Law sets, a 17-volume collection of laws, to 38 judges in the province
- Developed and trained judges and court administrators in the new Afghanistan Court Administration System, a case-management system that improves the courts' ability to manage cases and provide due process, leading to more effective and transparent rule of law
- Supported justice sector development through a one-month Foundation Training Program for 35 sitting judges and a one-year Supreme Court-mandated Stage Judicial Training Program for 20 judicial candidates, providing judges access to the tools necessary to officiate over the courts
- Assisted the Supreme Court in drafting a new ethics code for all judges and provided training for all of Afghanistan's judges in the contents and importance of the code. Wardak's judges received additional training in commercial and criminal law
- Built a new integrated provincial building for prosecutors and Ministry of Justice personnel
- Promoted legal and human rights awareness, including women's rights, through public education campaigns in a variety of media, thereby making information accessible even to those who cannot read
- Promoted public participation in governance through civic education, voter registration, and election monitoring for the 2004-2005 elections
- Supported the 2008 voter registration exercise, assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and independent poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys ahead of the elections, and ultimately helped conduct the 2009/2010 elections
- Provided capacity building training to three civil-society organizations
- Established a radio station
- Awarded 38 grants
- Trained 436 civil servants in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Goal: Create a developed business climate that enables private investment, job creation, and financial independence.

Summary: USAID's economic growth program helps the Afghan government develop sound economic governance and works with the private sector to stimulate investment and business opportunities. USAID partners with Afghans and the Afghan government to attract investment, generate sustainable employment, and expand market linkages. USAID promotes a legal economy in Wardak Province through expanding access to modern banking services, telecommunications, and market infrastructure.

Current Activities:

- Support the privatization of state-owned enterprises, including the Afghan Fertilizer Enterprise
- Promote economic related information and data collection activities to build Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) regional economic research and analytical functions introduced in DAB zone offices
- Support the Ministry of Finance's (MoF) provincial budgeting team and provincial budgeting officers based in the Jalalabad training hub, to conduct budgeting training programs and provide technical assistance to provincial officials in preparing annual budget estimates
- Provide Global Development Alliance support to purchase marble mining and processing equipment for the Afghan Marmar Company in effort to increase employment opportunities and revenue



Wardak Province

Accomplishments:

- Facilitated and launched the Afghan government effort to connect provincial government offices with Kabul through broadband technology (this government communications network facilitates active transparent governance)
- Installed five district communications network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, internet, and photocopying services to district government officials and the public
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Wardak Mustofiat, which has dramatically reduced processing times of Afghan government revenue receipts, production on revenue reports, and uploading into the consolidated MoF Financial Management System
- Implemented the Core Banking System in DAB Maidan-Wardak branch, DAB's automated transaction and financial management system, which dramatically improves service deliver, funds transfer capabilities, and accounting and financial reporting functions
- Conducted a banking survey in July 2007 to determine basic banking habits of the public, including the
 extent that bank accounts are used, whether banks were used for changing money, and to gauge the
 interest in obtaining bank loans to start new businesses or purchase homes
- Trained 42 Wardak officials in effective planning and budget estimate preparation to increase their participation in the national budget process by developing inputs that better reflect local needs and priorities
- Established four associations, providing association management and leadership training for the association members
- Constructed a small market that will sell local products to enhance commercial economic opportunities
- Supported 18 small and medium enterprises with conferences and roundtables
- Promoted improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation

EDUCATION

Goal: Improve the quality of basic education through improved teacher quality and increased availability of primary school textbooks; improve the livelihoods of urban and rural communities through increased literacy and employability instruction.

Summary: USAID supports educational improvements in Wardak Province through three national education projects. USAID has provided in-service teacher training (INSET), developed in-school teacher support activities (ITSA), provided radio-based teacher support programs, provided support to local communities through capacity strengthening in partnerships with non-governmental organizations and Ministry of Education personnel, printed textbooks, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

Current Activities:

- Conduct INSET 2 training for teachers
- Develop accelerated learning materials and train the trainers
- Conduct school management training 2
- Implement INSET 3 focused on literacy and numeracy for primary teachers
- Support 86 community-based school classes to expand access and quality of education to internally displaced population in four districts
- Support 26 emergency community-based classes to expand access and quality of education to internally displaced population throughout the province



Wardak Province

- Provide face-to-face teacher training and radio-based teacher support programs
- Construct a teacher training college to build a corps of professional teachers able to provide quality education to children
- Continue textbook support

Accomplishments:

- Integrated 57 community based and 29 emergency community based education classes into the Ministry of Education system
- Trained approximately 6,600 teachers and 275 trainers in INSET training
- Established more than 579 teacher learning circles in 309 schools
- Developed school improvement plans in 262 schools
- Established 262 school management committees
- Completed 14,421 teacher observations during the project life
- Printed more than 1.7 million textbooks
- Established 60 school manager practicum groups for 299 school principals
- Constructed seven schools

HEALTH

Goal: Improve the access to and quality of health services and increase the ability of individuals, families, and communities to protect their health.

Summary: USAID's principal health investments in Wardak Province come through nationwide programs, including support for health and family planning products and provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians, and technical assistance to the Provincial Health Office and implementing non-governmental organizations.

Current Activities:

- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in five sentinel sites
- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as contraceptives, water purification agents, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through private sector outlets
- Support the Provincial Public Health Office and the Provincial Public Health Coordination Committee to strengthen the technical, leadership, and management capacity of the provincial health team to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS
- Distribute community awareness materials for tuberculosis, diagnostic, treatment and training packages for tuberculosis including a database information system and maintenance equipment for the database
- Launch a community-based midwifery education program to reduce infant and maternal mortality
- Train community health worker trainers and community health supervisors, and orient new non-government organization staff, to expand the use of post-partum family planning
- Increase the technical and managerial skills of healthcare workers through refresher training for doctors, nurses, and lab technicians

Accomplishments:

• Trained roughly 13,600 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare



Wardak Province

 Trained provincial health officers to develop monthly joint monitoring plans to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS

INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal: Improve infrastructure to create legal economic opportunities, promote freedom of movement, and facilitate delivery of government and social services.

Summary: The infrastructure program for Wardak Province focuses on the maintenance of roads while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the provincial economy using locally available materials.

Current Activities:

- Maintain the Wardak section of the Kabul-Kandahar Highway to facilitate travel and reduce vehicle operating costs
- Strengthen the capacity of provincial staff of the Ministry of Public Works to manage road maintenance by Afghan contractors

Accomplishments:

- Constructed 10 micro-hydro power plants to provide access to electricity
- Rehabilitated the Wardak portion of the Kabul-Kandahar Road, the Chak-e-Wardak and Maydan Shahr District Center Roads, the Jaghatu Rashidan Road, and the Agha Khan Bridge, shortening travel time, improving economic opportunities, and facilitating access to health services and educational institutions

STABILIZATION

Goal: Improve stability, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and promote stabilization efforts that lay the groundwork for medium- to long-term development activities.

Summary: USAID creates linkages and builds confidence between communities and the local government through small-scale infrastructure, training, and community development projects.

Current Activities:

- Administer community stabilization grants to local communities in four districts for small infrastructure projects to improve transport and irrigation
- Train women and girls in improved techniques to process jam, making their products more profitable
- Support community-level labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community
 development priorities, and offer temporary employment (wages earned through these public and
 community works projects enable the poor to purchase food for themselves and their families)
- Foster connections between influential elders from the Tangi Valley and the Afghan government through the execution of a stability jirga

Accomplishments:

 Provided vocational training and basic education programs, including workshops on health and hygiene, livestock management, animal nutrition, jam processing, and tailoring to boost educational opportunities for women and girls



Wardak Province

- Trained 20 Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock workers to deliver agricultural services to local communities. Training included horticulture, agro-forestry skills, livestock management, sustainable water supply, how to work with farmers' associations, and developing a work plan
- Provided window glass and doors for five district centers
- Provided 15 laptop computers and 15 desks and chairs for the governor's office and select provincial line ministry departments
- Outfitted the governor's office with V-SAT connectivity to improve communications and efficiency
- Trained 41 district governors and senior staff on the role and responsibilities of the district governor's office, basic principles of public sector administration and management, and leadership and team-building skills
- Administered a tactical conflict assessment framework survey in two districts to gain insight into the problems faced by local communities and to provide a basis for future programming
- Administered 52 small grants to local communities in three districts for small infrastructure projects to improve transport and irrigation
- Mentored and trained 12 recent high school graduates in journalism techniques and production of radio broadcasts on the topics of girl's education, youth issues, counter-narcotics, and the importance of governance
- Helped 43,100 people through community-level labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment